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FROM: USMISSION BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State
Ambassador Bonn G-3

SUB:

RPID INFO: Paris (Also pass CINCEUR Thurston & West) (via pouch)
London (via pouch)
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Ref: Berlin's 316 to Bonn, rptd SecState 364

Brandt told CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr in recent interview for background only that he expects some action against West Berlin by end May, possibly complete sealing off of Sector-SovZone and Sector-Sector borders but without blockade. This would suspend even present meager traffic of East and West Germans, tourists and others between West Berlin and city's East Sector and surrounding Soviet Zone, leaving open only access routes between Berlin and FedRep. Brandt told Schorr he is giving thought to possible countermeasures to be taken if sealing off materializes, such as appeal to SovZone population offer passive resistance through strikes or work slowdowns. When Schorr asked if in light Hungarian experience this might not unintentionally turn into more active resistance as in June 1953 with attendant dangers, Brandt said that this was serious consideration that would have to be taken into account.

I took advantage of Brandt's reference this subject in conversation on social occasion to ask how that he characterized as "weapon of strikes and work slowdowns or other passive resistance measures" could be used against Soviets and Pankov government in Soviet Zone without danger of leading populace there believe that action by them would be supported from the West or otherwise encouraging them perhaps to go too far. Mayor said that he realized this presented very difficult problem. He is aware that direct appeals to Soviet Zone inhabitants might lead them believe that support from West would be forthcoming and cause them go too far in hope of such support with result that the action could work out ultimately to the disadvantage of West rather than of Soviets. He indicated belief that this problem could be solved by avoiding direct appeals to populace. Instead he would point out to Pankov and the Soviets through radio and other public channels that they are vulnerable to measures such as he has in mind. He believes that if public warnings are made to the Soviets regarding the ways in which they are vulnerable and the ways in which trouble can be made for them at minimum risks to the troublemakers, persons in the Soviet

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Zone might take the hint and make use of the techniques outlined without going too far. I expressed interest in his ideas but suggested that such a campaign against the Soviets might be hard to direct and particularly to keep in balance merely by radio and public channels. He indicated awareness of this circumstance and said that the matter would have to be given such further thought and careful planning before any actual actions were undertaken.

At time Hungarian uprising, Berlin DGB Chairman Scharnowski attempted make radio appeal to SovZone for sympathy strike along lines now envisaged by Brandt, but was stopped by city government authorities fearful of provoking uprising. Scharnowski at that time argued unsuccessfully that after 1953 experience SovZone population could be relied upon not to exceed passive resistance. Apparently without knowledge Brandt's present thinking, Scharnowski recently informed Mission officer he believes appeal for passive resistance in SovZone would be effective countermeasures if West Berlin sealed off from surrounding areas without blockade.

OUTLER

AUTH: F BURNS, JR.

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